Exempting security searches of service chiefs at airports

2775. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three chiefs of Army, Air Force and Navy are not exempted from security searches at airports, while many politicians and bureaucrats are; and

(b) if so, Government propose to give such senior officers of our armed forces the same status as politicians, ambassadors and bureaucrats *vis-a-vis* airport security?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per existing instructions, the chiefs of Army, Air Force and Navy are not exempted from pre-embarkation security checks at airports. There is no proposal with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to exempt the three service chiefs from pre-embarkation security checks at airports.

Technology transfer from US for F-16 planes

2776. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to initiate requisite technology transfers from US-based suppliers, to enable F-16 fighter planes to be built in the country by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

C.B.I. investigation in scorpion submarine deal

2777. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.B.I. has conducted any investigation into payment of commission in the deal for procurement of Scorpioner Submarine;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and